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October 14, 2003

Department of State

To whom it May Concern;

I am writing to you as a concerned adoptive parent. My husband and I have been connected to Thursday's Child, a small adoption agency in Bloomfield, for the past four years. We chose to work with this agency because it is small and services are offered on a much more personal level. The director, Iris Arenson Fuller, has always been available to us any time day or night. She makes a truly concerted effort to gather all the families together on a regular basis. We have found this level of involvement to be essential to us. Our son is young and he is flourishing but should we need the expert advice of Thursday's Child staff we know they are only a phone call away.

Adoption agencies that are smaller are going to have a very difficult if not impossible task ahead of them should the regulations change. Most of these smaller agencies are running on shoe string budgets and will not be able to survive should they have to pay huge fees to become accredited. Not only will this affect agencies but it will affect the families waiting to adopt children. The cost is already prohibitive for many people who would be great parents. My husband and I had to re-mortgage our home to be able to adopt our son. If we had had to pay even more due to an increased cost to our agency being passed on to us we would not have been able to adopt our son. We believe that the state needs to consider absorbing any extra costs that may occur due to regulation changes.

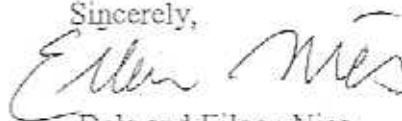
Please consider the importance of having a choice as an adoptive parent as to who should be helping with this process. Adopting a child is such a unique and individual experience that we should all feel that we have the ability to choose who we want to take that journey with us.

Larger agencies that may be able to survive a change in regulations will only become over burdened themselves, which will only slow down an often already slow process. Adoptive families will feel lost in a large bureaucratic system that will be unable to meet their individual needs. Many families may choose not to adopt because of these issues. How devastating this would be for all the children who need loving families.

Again I implore you to take a close look at how small agencies will be affected by new regulations. There must be a way to regulate and ensure that agencies are doing a good job without putting many of them at risk for closing down. I cannot even put into words the joy our son has brought to our lives, and I stress again the important role Thursday's Child played in helping us become a family.



Sincerely,



Dale and Eileen Nies
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